(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to remedy such situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) According to available information, the public expenditure on education as percentage of GDP is 3.91 percent (2000-2001), while, expenditure on elementary education is 48% of the total expenditure on education.

As per National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99), 79% of the children in the age group 6-14 years are attending school.

(b) to (d) The Finance Minister in his budget speech for the year 1998-99 had announced launching of a new scheme to provide free education to girls with an outlay of Rs. 100 crore in the budget of that year. Accordingly, the process of consultation and preparation of the new scheme was initiated so that approval of various authorities such as EFC/Cabinet could be obtained. A provision of Rs. 160 crore was also made in the budget for the two subsequent years.

However, in the meantime, the Government launched the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to provide in a mission mode by 2010 free and compulsory quality education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years including girls. The erstwhile Department of Education was also bifurcated into two separate Departments. It was then decided to formulate a separate scheme named "National Programme for the Education of Girls at the elementary level" for the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy and implement it with the framework of the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Stay of New Syllabus

4752. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring certain changes in the course syllabi of 10 + 2 of CBSE during the academic year 2003-04; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any such move was stayed by the Supreme Court; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether awareness about AIDS and such other dreaded diseases forms part of course syllabi; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is an autonomous organisation, which adopts/adapts NCERT curriculum. It has decided to introduce a revised syllabi in class IX and class XI from the current academic year (2002-2003) and for the Class X/XII Examinations of the Board to be conducted in March 2004. However, the (NCERT), curriculum and text-books of Social Science, including History & Religion, and Hindi have been stayed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(c) The awareness of AIDS and other dreaded diseases forms a part of curriculum of science subjects at the secondary level.

Mid-Day Meal In Schools of Orissa

4753. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schools where free mid-day meals are given to students in Orissa;

(b) what is the contribution of the Centre to run such programme for wards of poor strata of society in the State; and

(c) what other programmes are proposed to be started for the benefits of wards of poor families in the State with Central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the Government of Orissa, cooked meals are being served under the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education, (popularly called Mid-Day Meal Programme) in all Government and Government aided primary schools in the rural areas of Koraput, Bolangir & Kalahandi (KBK)